



Illustration by Brenda Carter.
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ANTENNARIA DENSIFOLIA **DENSE-LEAVED ANTENNARIA**

Dense-leaved Antennaria is a low, mat-forming perennial with stems that are 2-6 cm high and which spread by prostrate runners from a branched rootcrown clothed in old leaf bases. The broadly spoon-shaped basal leaves are 3-6 mm long, while the alternate stem leaves are shorter and narrowly lance-shaped with small, curled tips. The foliage is densely covered with long white hairs. 2-5 flower heads are borne atop the stems, and male and female flowers are borne on different plants. Female flower heads have 3-4 series of overlapping, narrowly lance-shaped involucral bracts which are 4-5 mm long with brownish, papery tips, in addition to having white disk flowers which are ca. 3 mm long. Ray flowers are lacking. Male heads are slightly broader with shorter involucral bracts. The seed has long, stiff bristles at the top. Flowering in July-August.

There are many species of small-leaved, mat-forming ANTENNARIA. Only 2 other species have papery tips of involucral bracts that are brownish: *A. UMBRINELLA* has longer, more lance-shaped leaves, and *A. AROMATICA* has foliage with glandular hairs and basal leaves that are usually greater than 6 mm long. A hand lens may be needed for positive identification.